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gent men. The speakers of the assembly, men like Joseph Growdon, Edward Shippen, David Lloyd, Andrew Hamilton, John Kinsey, and Isaac Norris, made a group of colonial statesmen inferior to none under the English flag in America, for the work assigned them. Their strength was fully equal to any local strain which the maintenance of an orderly government in their own province might have put upon them, however unequal it was to meet a three-fold attack from disaffected elements in their own population, from hostile critics in other colonies, and from the organizers of war in the mother country.

President Sharpless observes with truth that "no one can appreciate the history of Colonial Pennsylvania who does not understand the spirit, the methods, and the beliefs of the Society of Friends. The failure to grasp these firmly, the dependence upon public records exclusively for the materials of history, has been the cause of serious misjudgments." His own work is fair-minded and straightforward, and while he puts himself naturally and readily into the place of those who endeavored the Quaker commonwealth, he deals with his subject in a spirit of simple candor which the reader cannot but recognize and enjoy.

HOWARD M. JENKINS.

American History told by Contemporaries. Edited by ALBERT BUSH-NELL HART, Professor of History in Harvard University. Vol. II., Building of the Republic, 1689-1783. (New York : The Macmillan Co. 1898. Pp. xxi, 653.)

PROBABLY the universal judgment would be that the period of Professor Hart's first volume is much richer in interesting materials of the sort which he is seeking to make known to students than that covered in the present volume. By comparison with the age of discovery and settlement and the days of Puritan enthusiasm, these ninety-four years, and especially the first seventy of them, were a dry time ; the world was its own god, and Sir Robert Walpole was its prophet. Yet Professor Hart has attacked his new problem with so much force and enterprise and ingenuity that it is doubtful whether he has not made the second volume more interesting even than the first. The interest is of a different kind, to be sure. The editor has perceived that it must be so, that the period appeals to a different element in the student, young or old, that, while it is still possible to be entertaining, the emphasis must now be laid on political affairs and especially on the development of American institutions of government. More space might well have been given to the development of American economic life, considering its vital importance in a new country ; but the growth of political institutions is certainly illustrated in a most varied and interesting manner. The skill with which this has been accomplished strikes the reader as perhaps the great success of the volume. The machinery of English control and the theories of Englishmen and provincials respecting it, the powers and duties of governors, the character and conduct of colonial assemblies and judicial

courts, the typical forms of local government in the various colonies, are all illustrated by extracts capitally chosen and arranged. This division of the book is preceded by one in which the leading events and phases in the public history of the individual colonies are exemplified by lively writings,—e. g., Salem witchcraft by portions of the testimony offered against the witches, the early days of Pennsylvania by Gabriel Thomas's account, the administrations of Andros and Nicholson in Virginia by Beverley's narrative thereof, and the founding of Georgia by half-a-dozen effective extracts. It is followed by a section devoted to the exhibiting of various aspects of colonial life, social, economic, intellectual and religious. In due proportion, more might have been made of the religious chapter. It seems a little meagre, and does not adequately exhibit normal conditions. Yet one would not have the ensuing chapter curtailed, in which a model series of excerpts illustrates slavery and servitude in the colonies. It is worth while to list them: the minute of the Germantown Quakers (1688), Sewall's *Selling of Joseph*, the text of the disallowance of a slave act (though here an act hindering importations, and its disallowance, would have been better), a series of advertisements of runaways, an extract from Woolman's *Journal*, Eddis on white servants, and Washington on importing Palatines. Part V. is concerned with intercolonial wars, Part VI. deals, very abundantly, with the causes of the Revolution, Part VII. with the characteristics of the patriot and loyalist parties and of the British and American forces. The various political, diplomatic and military aspects of the Revolution are illustrated with great skill, though we should think there might have been a few more good accounts of battles. Also, for the general period, we should think more space should have been given to the West.

Space for such purposes might have been saved from the "Practical Introduction." It is excellent and most helpful, but it is a repetition, with only the illustrations changed, of the introduction to the first volume. Apparently it is thought that there will be a considerable separate use of the individual volumes (there are to be four). We do not think so. Most courses in American history, given either in school or in college, are continuous courses in the whole history of the United States; and not many will employ these useful and vivifying volumes for one period without wishing to use them for all.

Two small criticisms of detail may be added. First, the head-notes to the extracts might often be made a few words longer, to the profit of the student. He will often need a little more explanation. Thus, most of No. 79 refers to Braintree, though it appears to relate to Boston. If a letter is given, it should be stated to whom it is addressed. Secondly, it is a pity to print "y^e" for "the," if only because it will lead American youth to perpetuate the unfortunate habit of most of their elders, in pronouncing the word so printed as if it were the plural of "you," and supposing that our ancestors used to print it so.